

## Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 OMB-01

IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 /148 W

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O R 201001Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1569

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0979

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJ: DAYAN'S POSITION ON SERVING IN GOVERNMENT

1. DEPUTY TRANSPORT MINISTER AND DAYAN CONFIDANT  
YAACOB TOLD US THIS MORNING THAT THERE IS "SERIOUS POSSIBILITY"  
THAT DAYAN WILL NOT BE IN NEXT GOVT: THAT IF HE DOES NOT  
SERVE, OTHER RAFI FACTION MEMBERS SUCH AS YAACOB AND  
TRANSPORT MINISTER SHIMON PERES ALSO WILL NOT SERVE: AND  
THAT IN THIS CASE, NEW ELECTION IS INEVITABLE IN YAACOB'S  
OPINION. YAACOB SAID DAYAN IS MEETING MRS MEIR LATER  
THIS MORNING, AND ONLY IF MRS MEIR AT MEETING "TAKES VERY  
SERIOUS DECISIONS/ ABOUT EXTENSION BY PRIMIN AND OTHER  
SENIOR MINISTERS OF "VERY MEANINGFUL SUPPORT AND BACKING OF  
DAYAN," INCLUDING PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT, WOULD  
DAYAN AGREE TO SERVE. WE ASKED YAACOB IF DESIRED DECISIONS  
BY MRS MEIR DEAL ONLY WITH SUPPORT FOR DAYAN OR ALSO EXTEND  
TO ISSUES OF NATIONAL POLICY (WE HAD IN MIND BOUNDARY ISSUE  
BUT THOUGHT IT WISE NOT TO SAY SO), AND YAACOB SAID SUPPORT  
IS SOLE ISSUE.

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2. YAACOBİ SAID DAYAN ACTUALLY HAD BEEN STRIVING FOR HOLDING OF NEW ELECTION. EVEN IF NEW GOVT WERE FORMED NOW WITHOUT NEW ELECTION AND INCLUDING DAYAN, DAYAN WOULD WANT NEW ELECTION TO BE HELD IN FOUR TO SIX MONTHS. BUT ACCORDING TO YAACOBİ, DAYAN WAS NOT MAKING PROMISE OF HOLDING OF NEW ELECTION IN THIS TIME FRAME A CONDITION FOR HIS JOINING GOVT.

3. YAACOBİ ADDED DAYAN MADE HIS DECISION ABOUT HIS CONDITIONS FOR JOINING GOVERNMENT FEB 17 AND INFORMED MRS MEIR OF IT FEBRUARY 18. IN OTHER WORDS, IT WAS NO SURPRISE TO HER WHEN RAFI FACTION SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED DAYAN'S POSITION LATE YESTERDAY.

4. WE HAVE ALSO HEAD THIS MORNING FROM PRESIDENT OF TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION THAT LATTER MET WITH DAYAN AT EIGHT LAST EVENING. DAYAN STATED THAT IN VIEW OF LACK OF SUPPORT FOR HIM ON PART OF MAPAM, SOME IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF MAPAI FACTION MACHINE, LABOR PARTY MAGAZINE OT, AND HISTADRUT NEWSPAPER DAVAR, AS WELL AS UNCERTAINTY OF ATTITUDE TOWARD HIM OF AHDUT AVODA FACTION, HE CONSIDERED IT ESSENTIAL THAT LEADERS OF LABOR PARTY SHOW STRONG SUPPORT OF HIM. DAYAN ALSO SAID ACCORDING TO STUDENT LEADER THAT IF HE DID RESIGN, IT WOULD NOT BE BECAUSE OF ANY GUILTY FEELINGS ON DAYAN'S PART OVER SHORTCOMINGS IN OCTOBER WAR, AND IF DAYAN IN FACT WAS GUILTY OF SUCH SHORTCOMINGS, IT WAS UP TO AGRANAT INVESTIGATING COMMISSION TO SAY SO.

5. COMMENT: YAACOBİ'S STATEMENT THAT MRS MEIR HAD KNOWN ABOUT DAYAN'S POSITION SINCE FEBRUARY 18 WAS CONFIRMED TO US TODAY BY WELL INFORMED REPORTER ON DOMESTIC POLITICS (..38 3) ), WHO SAID YAACOBİ TELEPHONE HIM FEB 17 URGING THAT HE WRITE COMMENTARY ON SUBJECT FOR FEBRUARY 18 NEWSPAPER (BUT DEADLINE HAD PASSED) IN MISTAKEN BELIEF, YAACOBİ HAD NOW TOLD HIM THIS MORNING, THAT DAYAN WOULD ANNOUNCE HIS POSITION FEBRUARY 18. IN OUR VIEW, THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT DAYAN WILL GET PUBLIC BACKING HE WANTS AND WILL TERMINATE HIS SULKING. KEATING

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## Message Attributes

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